Basement or Utility Room Hazards

- Have a working smoke detector in the basement. Keep it free of dust and debris by vacuuming over and around it regularly. Test batteries monthly and replace them twice a year. Only remove the batteries from the smoke detector to replace them.
- Keep hazardous products out of the children's reach. Lock up all chemicals, paint, pesticides, sharp tools and hardware in a latched or locked cabinet.
- Place a label on or near each gas and water line's shut-off valve so they are easy to locate and turn off in the event of an emergency.
- Label the main electrical switch so it's easy to locate in an emergency. Make sure you know how to properly turn it off as well.
- Refer to the user's manual included with your furnace and water heater for proper procedures on how to light the pilot light on each one.
- Make sure that your water heater is securely fastened to the wall prevent damage during a potential earthquake.
- Improperly grounded laundry appliances can cause electrical shock, especially if the area near them is damp. Check with a service person or electrician if you are not sure if they are grounded properly.